

CLAIMS

1. A guide tube for a flexible pipe (40) for  
5 transporting hydrocarbons and designed for mounting  
substantially vertically on an offshore installation to  
allow connection of said flexible pipe (40) to said  
offshore installation, said guide tube comprising a  
lower tubular element (10) having a substantially  
10 rectilinear section (12) extending along an axis (A)  
and extended by a free section (14) having a curvature,  
said free section (14) having an inner wall (38)  
internal to the curvature against which said flexible  
pipe (40) is fitted so as to be entrained in friction  
15 when entrained through said guide tube, and said  
rectilinear section (12) comprising eccentric guide  
means (18) for guiding said flexible pipe (40) in order  
to hold it away from said axis (A) in an opposite  
direction from said curvature so as to keep said pipe  
20 (40) away from said internal inner wall (38);  
characterized in that said eccentric guide means (18)  
comprise an insert forming a ring, said insert having  
an inner perimeter that is eccentric relative to the  
outer perimeter.

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2. The guide tube as claimed in claim 1,  
characterized in that said substantially rectilinear  
section (12) has a flange against which said eccentric  
guide means (18) fit in order to be held in a bearing  
30 relationship.

3. The guide tube as claimed in claim 2,  
characterized in that said eccentric guide means (18)  
are adapted so as to be held in a bearing relationship  
35 against said flange by a collar (20) forming a clamp.

4. The guide tube as claimed in any one of claims 1

to 3, characterized in that said eccentric guide means (18) are made from steel and have a surface with a low friction coefficient.

5 5. The guide tube as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that it also comprises at least one upper tubular element (46) spaced from said lower tubular element (10), opposite said free section (14) and arranged coaxially relative to said substantially  
10 rectilinear section (12).

6. A flexible pipe for transporting hydrocarbons designed to be entrained in a guide tube as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that it  
15 comprises radial guide means designed to guide it through said lower tubular element.

7. The flexible pipe as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that said radial guide means comprise  
20 biconical sleeves spaced along said flexible pipe by a distance shorter than the length of said tubular element.